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# Annual Report

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
AND  
Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE  
Year Ending December 31st 1938.

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Presented June, 1939.

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Hebden Bridge:

Kershaw and Ashworth, Ltd., Market Street.

1939.



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# Hepton Rural District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Medical Officer of Health

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Holme House,

Hebden Bridge,

June, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hepton Rural  
District Council.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Hepton Rural District for the year 1938.

The District is mainly composed of hilly country, the lowest part lying about 350 feet above sea level and the highest 1,559 feet. The River Calder, the Rochdale Canal, the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, and the Halifax and Todmorden Main Road lie close together along the valley at the lowest part of the District.

The area of the District is 20,501 acres. The population was 4,587 in 1921, and the estimated population for the mid-year 1938 was 4,378. Some of the inhabitants belong to the farming class, but the majority are employed as operatives in the various cotton mills in the District and in the adjoining Urban District in the wholesale clothing works and the weaving sheds. In the year 1921 there were 1,527 inhabited houses in the District, and the number of families or separate occupiers in that year was 3.0. At the end of 1938 there were 1,466 inhabited houses in the District according to the Rate Books. The rateable value is £32,894, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £130 7s. 10d.

### STATISTICS: EMPLOYMENT. YEAR 1938.

The Hepton Rural District has suffered in the general industrial depression, but not to the same extent as other districts. From the Employment Exchange, which is representative of both the Hepton Rural and the Hebden Royd

Districts, and has some 6,870 members on its registers, I obtained the following table, showing the employment in these districts.

*Ministry of Labour,  
Employment Exchange,  
Hebden Bridge.  
May, 1939.*

The figures down for each month of the Wholly Un-employed and Temporarily Suspended (short-timers) are:

Month.	W.U.	T.S.	Total	
Jan. 1938	322	1067	1389	Slight decrease on the previous month, due to improvement in Wholesale Clothing, although there was a decline in Woodworking and Cotton Trades.
Jan. 1937	291	164	455	
Feb. 1938	326	976	1302	Decrease due to better trade in Building, Cotton Spinning and Weaving, further decline in Wholesale Clothing.
Feb. 1937	275	157	432	
Mar. 1938	321	841	1162	Further decrease due to improvement in Building Industry owing to weather conditions; also better trade in Woodworking and Wholesale Clothing.
Mar. 1937	171	96	267	
Apr. 1938	304	804	1108	Slight decrease, better trade in all industries.
Apr. 1937	254	173	427	
May 1938	290	1275	1565	Increase in the register was due to the falling-off of trade in Wholesale Clothing industry, also the Cotton Industries were slightly worse than a month ago.
May 1937	248	307	555	
June 1938	287	1397	1684	Increase still due to a further decline in the Wholesale Clothing Industry and short-time prevailed.
June 1937	231	431	662	
July 1938	297	932	1229	Decrease due mainly to increased employment in the Wholesale Clothing after the Annual Holiday.
July 1937	232	820	1052	
Aug. 1938	305	1700	2005	Increase; bad trade in the Wholesale Clothing Industry. General holiday month.
Sep. 1938	286	1292	1578	Decrease owing to better trade in all industries, with a marked improvement in Wholesale Clothing.
Sep. 1937	276	788	1064	
Oct. 1938	331	772	1103	Further decrease due to further improvement in Wholesale Clothing.
Oct. 1937	295	718	1013	
Nov. 1938	359	736	1095	Further decrease due to better trade in Wholesale Clothing, but Woodworking slightly affected by short-time.
Nov. 1937	296	918	1214	
Dec. 1938	366	840	1206	Increase was due to employment being slightly worse in Wholesale Clothing, Dyeing and Finishing, and Woodworking Industries.
Dec. 1937	238	1133	1371	

The year ended December 1938 may be regarded as one of comparative depression, and though the figures given vary month by month, they are considerably above the average for previous years.

Bad trade in Wholesale Clothing was mainly responsible for the decline in employment. An improvement commenced in October. Employment began to decrease immediately after the Coronation in 1937, and wholesale clothing was principally affected.

It was fortunate during the year that the number of totally unemployed remained steady and normal, and persons were not temporarily suspended generally for more than three days, and in some instances one or two days each week. Women were mostly affected.

From May to September the employment position was bad and considerably below normal. Excepting wholesale clothing the other principal local industries were good, with engineering very good; cotton spinning and weaving, dyeing and finishing, woollen blankets, and woodworking have during the year found it necessary to work some short-time.

The breeding of one-day-old chicks (approximately three millions for the district) is an agricultural seasonal trade from January to June, and the production and preparation of chickens, ducks and turkeys for the table is carried on throughout the year at Mytholmroyd. Employment has been good.

The total insured population for the district, which includes Hebden Royd, Heptonstall, Blackshaw, Erringden, and Wadsworth, is estimated at 6,870, of which 270 are engaged in agriculture and poultry farming.

The numbers of insured workers in each township are not available, but it may be assumed that they are: Hebden Royd 83%, Heptonstall 10%, Erringden  $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ , Blackshaw  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ , and Wadsworth 3%.

The number of unemployed juveniles at any time during the year has been negligible, with an unsatisfied demand for girls in wholesale clothing trade.

W. B. COOK, Manager.



## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{	Total M. F.			{	Birth-rate per 1000 Estimated Resident Population 10.28.		
		Legitimate ...	42	25			17	
		Illegitimate...	3	2	1			
Still Births	{		Legitimate	2	0	2	{	Rate per 1000 (live and still) Total Births. 42.55. Rate per 1000 Population. 0.45.
Deaths .....			Total	M.	F.	{ Death-rate per 1000 Estimated Resident Population. 12.33.		
			54	29	25			

Birth Rate (England and Wales) 15.1 per 1000 population

Still Birth Rate .. 0.60 ..

Death Rate .. 11.6 ..

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes.**

	Deaths.	Total (live & still)	Rate per 1000 Births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis .....	0	.....	0
No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes	0	.....	0

**Death of Infants under 1 year of age:—**

Legitimate .....Total 2. Males 2. Females 0.

Illegitimate .....Total 0. Males 0. Females 0.

**Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births:—**

Legitimate 47, Illegitimate 0. All Infants 44.

**Death Rate Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births:—  
England and Wales—53.**

Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	0
.. Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	0
.. Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) .....	0
.. Cancer (all ages) .....	10
.. Heart Disease (all ages) .....	10
Influenza .....	1
Cerebral Hemorrhage (all ages) .....	6
.. Diphtheria (all ages) .....	0

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer, who also acts as Public Vaccinator and District M.O. under the Poor Law Act.

The Sanitary Officer is a full-time officer; and other Public Health Officers such as Veterinary Surgeons, Public Analysts, etc., come under the control of the West Riding County Council.

## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

This is principally carried out by the two District Nurses attached to the Hebden Bridge District Nursing Institution. These two Nurses are qualified both in General and Maternity Nursing. They attend confinements at a small fixed fee. Their work is highly appreciated, and their services are always much in demand. Arrangements are now in force whereby a Nurse can be provided by the West Riding County Council for the nursing of infectious diseases in the home, in the event of there being no hospital accommodation for such cases.

The Hebden Bridge District Nursing Institution is managed very successfully by a local Committee, and is supported principally by voluntary contributions. The Institution receives a subsidy from the Ministry of Health towards the cost of running the Maternity service. It has no connection with the Local Authority. Midwives: The two District Nurses referred to, and one Private Nurse who is in charge of a Private Maternity Home, are the only practising midwives in the area.

The local authority makes no subsidy towards practising midwives.

There was no change in this service during the year.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield. Auto-genous vaccines and sera are supplied free of charge to local medical men requiring same. The services of the laboratory are much availed of by the local practitioners in this district.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied by your Council free of charge to any medical practitioner requiring it.



## LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

1889, Dec. 4.—The Todmorden Union R.S.A. adopted the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, to come into operation on February 1st, 1900. (52 and 53 Vict. c. 72.)

1891, June 3.—Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890 (53 and 54 Vict., c. 34), adopted in its entirety, to come into operation on 1st August, 1891.

1891, June 3.—Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (53 and 54 Vict., c. 59), Part 3 of Act, so far as applicable to a Rural Authority, adopted, to come into operation on 1st August, 1891.

1885, June 19.—Order of Local Government Board, investing Guardians with Urban powers to contributory place of Heptonstall. Secs. 42 and 44 Public Health Act, 1875; Secs. 157 and 158, Public Health Act, 1875.

1902, Jan. 4.—Order of Local Government Board investing R.D.C. with Urban powers as to providing and maintaining public urinals and determining expenses incurred to be special expenses. Applies to all the R.D.

1893, Sept. 19.—Order of Local Government Board declaring expenses incurred under Sections 42, 44, 157 and 158 of the Public Health Act, 1875, within the Contributory place of Heptonstall, to be "Special Expenses" within the meaning of Sections 229 and 230 of the said Act, and to be charged upon the said Contributory place.

1887, Nov. 3. 1890, April 29.—Heptonstall Drainage Scheme. 2.11.87 Letter and Order re Special Expenses.

1907, Dec. 26.—Order (No. 51,789) of the L.G.B. investing R.D.C. with Urban Powers (for the Parish of Blackshaw) Sec. 160 Public Health Act incorporating Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, respecting naming of streets and numbering of houses. Expenses (excepting establishment and officers) to be Special Expenses and chargeable upon Blackshaw only.

1909, Feb. 17.—Order (No. 53,340) of L.G.B. investing R.D.C. with Urban Powers under Sect. 45 of the P.H. Act 1875, for Blackshaw, Erringden, Heptonstall, and Wadsworth, re Refuse Tips. Expenses to be Special (excepting establishment and officers) and chargeable on Contributory places accordingly. (See Order of 20th March, 1919).

1909, July 16.—Order (54,103) of L.G.B. investing R.D.C. with Urban Powers under Sect. 42 Public Health Act 1875, re Watering of Streets, for Blackshaw, Erringden, and

Wadsworth (Heptonstall being provided for by previous Order). Expenses to be Special (establishment and officers excepted) and chargeable accordingly on Contributory places.

1912, Feb. 29.—Order (58,239) of L.G.B. investing R.D.C. with Urban Powers for Parishes of Erringden, Heptonstall, and Wadsworth. Sect. 160 Public Health Act 1875, incorporating Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847, respecting Naming of Streets and Numbering of Houses. Expenses (excepting establishment and officers) to be Special Expenses chargeable upon the Parish in respect of which they have been incurred.

1912, April 10.—Order (58,488) of L.G.B. investing R.D.C. with Urban powers under Secs. 42 and 44 of Public Health Act 1875 (so far as not previously in force) for Blackshaw, Erringden and Wadsworth (Heptonstall having already such powers under Orders of 1885 and 1893), and declaring expenses (excepting establishment and officers) to be Special Expenses chargeable upon Parish in respect of which they are incurred. Sec. 42 relates to Scavenging and Cleansing; Sec. 44 relates to Bye-laws for ditto

1919, March 20.—Order (65,193) of L.G.B. determining all expenses (except establishment and officers) to be Special Expenses chargeable upon Parish in respect of which they are incurred. Applies to Blackshaw, Erringden, and Wadsworth. For Cleansing of Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools. As to removal of House Refuse see Order of 17th February, 1909. For Heptonstall see Order of 19th September, 1893.

1919, Nov. 10.—Order 65,544 of Minister of Health declaring all expenses legally incurred in respect of Sewage Disposal Works for Contributory Place of Heptonstall to be Special Expenses.

1921, Feb. 26.—Order 66,973, Ministry of Health, to operate from 21st March, 1921, investing R.D.C. with Urban Powers with respect to Fires in respect of the Rural District. General Expenses.

1924, Jan. 14.—Order 68,972, Ministry of Health, declaring Section 50 (as to Ambulance) of Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, to be in force in Todmorden Rural District. General expenses.

1924, Jan. 28.—Order 69,998, investing Todmorden R.D.C. with Urban Powers under Section 154 of Public Health Act 1875, as to purchase of premises for widening etc. any street in the Rural District, but not for the making of a new street. General expenses.

1925, Feb. 16.—Home Secretary Order 472 867/1, putting Section 90 (Agreements as to Fire Appliances) of Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 into force in Todmorden Rural District. General Expenses.

1925, March 11. — Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards. The Rural District Councils' (Slaughter-houses) Order, 1924, empowers Rural District Councils to exercise the duties of an Urban Authority under the following enactments:—

(1) s.s. 169 and 170. Public Health Act, 1875.

(2) s.s. 29 to 31. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

1925, May 9.—M.H. Order No. 69,980, investing R.D.C. with Urban Powers (re Public Lighting) under Section 161 of the 1st paragraph P.H. Act 1875, in all the Contributory Places, and Section 163 in Contributory Places of Blackshaw and Erringden. Expenses to be Special Expenses upon the Contributory Place in respect of which they have been incurred.

1926, July 21.—Letter of Ministry of Health (I.B. 2432/8988) sanctioning communication of a sewer in Hurst Road with the Hebden Bridge Urban District Council's sewer, re Hurst Drainage.

1926, August 24.—Order of Ministry of Health determining to be Special Expenses chargeable on Wadsworth expenses in respect of sewage disposal, under an agreement of July 14, 1926, with Hebden Bridge Urban District Council re Hurst Road Drainage.

1928, May 15th.—Bye-laws and Regulations Common Lodging Houses.

### **Adoptive Acts.**

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890—The whole.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890—Part III. only.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 190—No.

Do. do. 1907—No.

Private Street Works Act, 1892—No.

Public Health Act, 1925—No.

Any Urban Powers obtained in 1932—No.

## Bye-Laws and Regulations in force in District:—

Subject.	Date of Approval.
Cleansing of Footways and Pavements	None Approved.
Scavenging .....	" "
Prevention of Nuisances .....	" "
Common Lodging Houses .....	May, 1928.
New Streets and Buildings .....	March, 1932.
Alteration of Buildings .....	None Approved.
Slaughter-Houses .....	" "
Baths and Wash-Houses .....	" "
Houses let in Lodgings .....	" "
Cemeteries .....	" "
Mortuaries .....	" "
Offensive Trades .....	" "
Tents, Vans and Sheds .....	" "
Smoke Abatement .....	" "

Any Bye-laws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1925—No.

Any Bye-laws made under Section 68 of the Housing Act, 1925—No.

## HOSPITALS.

There are no Hospitals in the District, but those available for use by the inhabitants of the area are as follows:—

		BEDS.	
General Medical	} ROYAL HALIFAX INFIRMARY	M.	F.
General Surgical		97	70
Children	"	43	
Maternity	"	20	
Venereal Diseases	"	Included in above figures.	
Orthopædic	"	"	
Ear, Nose and Throat	"	"	

The HALIFAX GENERAL HOSPITAL, which is a Municipal Hospital having 405 beds, and being fully equipped in all departments. It takes patients from the area originally bounded by the Halifax Poor Law Union (population approximately 190,000). During the past year the following patients were admitted from our district: Medical and Surgical cases, Assisted 21, Private 15; Maternity cases, Assisted 6, Private 9; total 51. The private block opened in 1937 continues to be well used, as will be seen from the figures above. The inclusive rate remains at £3 13s. 6d. per week. (For this information I am indebted to Mr. A. Curtis, Deputy Medical Superintendent).

Tuberculosis ...The Sanatoria under the administration of the West Riding County Council.

Chronic Sick...STANSFIELD VIEW HOSPITAL, 31 Male Beds and 31 Female Beds.

Mental.....Under County Council Administration.

Mental Deficiency—Under County Council Administration.

Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia...St. Luke's Hospital, Halifax.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum...Ditto, by arrangement with the County Council.

Fevers .....FIELDEN HOSPITAL, Todmorden.  
(See below for particulars).

Smallpox...SOURHALL HOSPITAL, Todmorden, 34 Beds.

The Fielden and Sourhall Hospitals are managed respectively by the Joint Hospital Committees, and Hepton Rural District Council is one of the local authorities of each Committee, the finances of the Committee being met by precept.

Institutional provision is provided for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, or homeless children, at the Union Hospital (Stansfield View, Todmorden), and the General Hospital, Halifax.

There is one Registered Maternity Home in your area, this being under the supervision of the County M.O.H.

The investigation of maternal deaths, and cases of puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia, is undertaken by the County Medical Officer of Health.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious cases are removed by an Ambulance from the Fever Hospital. Non-infectious and Accident cases are removed by an ambulance jointly owned by the Hepton Rural Council and Hebden Royd Urban Council. Both these ambulances are of the modern motor type, and with regard to the Accident Ambulance, patients are called upon to pay a nominal amount on each occasion when the same is used. The Ambulance services in this area are quite adequate.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre established in Hebden Bridge. A Clinic for mothers and babies is held once weekly, under the supervision of a lady doctor and two nurses. The attendances at this Clinic have increased considerably in recent years.



An Ante-natal Clinic is held bi-monthly and is being well attended. It is under the supervision of a Lady Doctor, and is held on the second and last Friday of each month at 2 p.m.

School Clinics are held twice weekly at this Centre and are attended by the Health Nurse.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held weekly at both Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge. The distance to either of these Dispensaries is about four miles from most parts of this area.

The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at the Royal Halifax Infirmary, some eight miles away.

The Clinics referred to are under the control of the West Riding County Council.

There was no change during the year.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water.**—The supply is mainly from springs and wells, partly private and partly distributed by the Council. In Heptonstall village a bulk supply was laid on from the Halifax new filtration plant at Hollin Hall, Hebden Bridge. This supplies 396 houses, and has been found satisfactory during the year in quality and quantity. There were 9 chemical examinations made. Six results were satisfactory, and 12 supplies were bacteriologically examined, 9 results being satisfactory. None of the supplies were restricted or closed. The village of Heptonstall now having its own water supply, I urge the residents to avail themselves of the many advantages that can be derived from such. It was gratifying to know that 185 houses had been connected up with the new supply at the end of year 1932; at the end of 1933, 244 houses; and at the end of 1936, 389 houses were connected to the new supply. This will help considerably to reduce the number of pail or tub closets, the number of which up to now has been perforce altogether too high. Any expenditure incurred in getting the water laid on will be more than compensated for by the comfort and convenience derived therefrom.

The supply was extended to 2 houses during the year 1938.

**Rivers and Streams.** — No complaints were received from the West Riding Rivers Board, but constant visits and warnings by the Sanitary Inspector are necessary to check the depositing of rubbish in nearby rivers and streams.



**Drainage and Sewerage.**—The main sewer at Charlston was extended by 300 yards. The districts of Errington, Blackshaw and Wadsworth still require sewerage.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

Number of Privies with open middens .....	8
Number of Pail or Tub Closets .....	517
Number of Privies with covered middens .....	59
Number of Water Closets .....	310
Waste Water Closets .....	8
Number reconstructed during 1938 (a) as w.c.'s—0; (b) other—0.	
Number of Closets other than Privies reconstructed during 1938 as w.c.'s—12.	
Number of additional Closets provided for old property in 1938—(a) w.c.'s 4, (b) other 2.	
Number of closets constructed in 1938 for new houses—(a) w.c.'s 7; (b) other 0.	

The Council contribute £2 towards the cost of each conversion of privy and pail to w.c. system.

### **Public Cleansing.—**

- (a) Dry ashes by horse and cart weekly from most parts of the district. Outlying districts are collected every two months.
- (b) Nightsoil by horse and cart during the day weekly from most parts of the district.
- (c) The dry house refuse is disposed of on the Tips.
- (d) Most of the nightsoil is buried on the Tips. A small portion is disposed of by farmers.
- (e) There is one cesspool in the area.

The total annual cost of collection and disposal of refuse in 1938 was £997 15s. 4d.

**Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**—The following table submitted to me by your Sanitary Inspector shows in tabular form the work done during the year ended 31st December, 1938.

## INSPECTION OF PREMISES.

For Nuisances only .....	145
Nuisances found in 1938 .....	41
Nuisances in hand at end of 1937 .....	20
Total needing abatement .....	61
Abated during 1938 .....	49
Outstanding end of 1938 .....	12
Notices served informal .....	72
Complied with .....	49
Notices served statutory .....	0
Complied with .....	0
Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings	0
Houses inspected for " Housing defects " in 1938 under Acts and Regulations .....	237
Houses found satisfactory on inspection .....	112
Houses needing further action .....	145
Houses found with defects .....	125
Defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action .....	24
Inspections of Houses let in Lodgings.....	0
Inspection of Offensive Trades (Tripe Boiling) .....	0
Number of samples of Milk taken for analysis under F. and D. Acts, 1928 .....	0
Number of Cowshed Inspections during 1938 .....	169
Number of seizures of Unsound Food .....	0
Number of Inspections of Slaughterhouses .....	144
Number of Inspections of Bakehouses .....	12
Number of Smoke Observations taken .....	12
Number of Cautions as a result of such observations...	2

**Camping Sites.**

(1) The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938—1.

(2) The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936—None.

(3) The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season of 1938—60.

## Smoke Abatement.

- (1) Number of smoke observations each of 30 minutes' duration taken during 1938 ..... 12
- (2) Number of above showing excessive emission of black smoke ..... 3
- (3) Number of cautions issued ..... 2
- (4) Number of statutory notices issued ..... 0
- (5) Number of prosecutions ..... 0

## Shops Act, 1934.—Sections 10 and 13 (3).

No. of visits paid under the Act during 1938—None.

Unsatisfactory condition found—None.

**Swimming Baths and Pools**—There are none in the area.

## Eradication of Bed Bugs.

- 1 (a) Council Houses: Infested—None.  
Disinfested—None.
- (b) Other Houses: Infested—1.  
Disinfested—1.
- 2 Method of Disinfecting—Spraying with faldecide.
- 3 Methods employed of cleansing tenants' belongings before removal to Council House—None employed.
- 4 Work of Disinfestation is carried out by the local authority.
- 5 The measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing—Frequent visits of inspection and advice given where necessary.

## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	Total No. of Inspections Made.	General Condition.	Legal Pro- ceedings.
Common Lodging Houses	0	.. 0	.. 0 ..	—	—
Canal Boats .....	0	.. 0	.. 0 ..	—	—
Knackers' Yards .....	0	.. 0	.. 0 ..	—	—
Houses let in Lodgings ..	0	.. 0	.. 0 ..	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds..	1	.. 1	.. 3 ..	—	None
Offensive Trades .....	0	.. 0	.. 0 ..	—	—
(Tripe Boiling)					

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades?—No.

**Schools.**—The Sanitary condition of the Schools in the area may be said to be good. All have a satisfactory water supply. The responsibility for the general health of the children rests with the School Medical Officer for the county, Dr. Potts, and the Medical Inspectors acting under him. The children are examined regularly, with the result that where physical defects are discovered subsequent action is taken with consequent good results.

There are five Schools in your district.

**Health Education.**—Health Week lectures were given voluntarily by the teachers and others to the children attending the Schools.

**Rag Flocks Acts, 1911 and 1928.**—There are no premises in the District on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

Number of Houses erected during the year 1938:—

(a) By the Local Authority .....	0
(b) By private enterprise .....	7
Total.....	7

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of Dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..... 237
- (b) No. of Inspections made for the purpose 285
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..... 112
- No. of Inspections made for the purpose ..... 112
- (3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 73
- (4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... 72

### 2 Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....	21
--	----

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs .....	29
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners .....	8
(b) By Local Authority, in default of owners .....	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	16
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners .....	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....	0

### c & d Proceedings under Sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of Separate Tenements of Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	0
(2) Number of Separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	6
(3) Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	0
(4) Number of Dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	0

### 4 Housing Act, 1936.—Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	12
(ii) Number of families therein .....	12
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	72
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	0

- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..... 6  
 (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 36
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for abatement of overcrowding ..... None
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

### Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Milk Supply.

Are Two Registers being kept as required by Section 2 (3) Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922?

(a) For Retailers—Yes.

(b) For Cowkeepers or Wholesale Traders—Yes.

Have any retailers been removed from the Register?—No.

#### Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938.

	No. of Licences in force in area for:	Samples of designated milks examined bacteriologically:		
		Number satisfactory.	Number unsatisfactory.	Total
(a) Production of “ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk	2	6	0	6
(b) Production of “ Accredited ” Milk	1	2	1	3
(c) In respect of Pasteurising Plants	—	—	—	—

No. of Milk samples taken by officers of local authority for analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928—None.

No. found adulterated—0. No. of prosecutions—0.

No. of samples of ordinary milk taken by officers of local authority for:—

(a) Methylene blue test—None.

(b) Presence of tuberculosis—None.



Any special examination of milk for dirt, e.g., sedimentation test?—No.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk during 1938?—No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district—104. No. registered—94.

Total No. of Cowsheds—115. Total No. of Milk Cows—949.

Total No. of Cowsheds inspected during the year—115.

Total No. of Cowshed inspections—169.

No. of Wholesale Traders registered—28.

No. of Retail Sellers registered—67.

Observations as to structural conditions, cleanliness and methods of production and handling of milk—The cowsheds and methods of production and handling are reasonably satisfactory.

### Meat Inspection.

Any public abattoir in district?—No.

Total number of private slaughterhouses—3, made up of 1 registered and 2 licensed.

Number unsatisfactory either as regards structure, position, or in other respects—None.

### Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Meat Marking—No scheme in force.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) .....	75	28	2	156	12
Number Inspected .....	75	28	2	104	12

### All Diseases except Tuberculosis

(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuber- culosis .....	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

**Tuberculosis only—**

(a) Whole carcasses condemned	0	1	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	0	0	0	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	1.3%	3.9%	0%	0%	0%

No samples (other than Milk) were taken for examination under the F. & D. Act 1928.

There are 6 Bakehouses in the district, none underground. These were inspected 12 times during the year and found to be satisfactory.

**Adulteration, etc.**—The West Riding County Council is the Authority under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act, but your Sanitary Inspector takes samples of Milk for examination. No samples were taken during the year.

**Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**—Chemical analyses are carried out by Mr. Richardson, of Bradford, and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Hall, Wakefield.

**Nutrition.** — Dissemination of knowledge. No action taken.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The District was remarkably free from notifiable disease throughout the year. The five cases of scarlet fever were of a sporadic type, two cases occurring in the first quarter and one case in each subsequent quarter. There were several cases of mumps and chickenpox in March and April, and also some cases of measles. No local action was taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation. Special Clinics were held in the beginning of the year for the inoculation of school children against diphtheria. Pre-school and school children can be immunised against diphtheria free of charge by their own doctors or at the Clinics held locally. The "Wellcome" Diphtheria Prophylactic T.A.F. is used for immunisation, and three injections are given at weekly intervals. The results so far as I can ascertain have been excellent.

I do not know of any use of the Shick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever having been made.

There were no primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations performed by me as Medical Officer of Health under the

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. The total number of Primary Vaccinations performed in the district for the year was 6, an exceedingly small number indeed, compared with the number of births.

There were no cases of anthrax, psittacosis, undulant fever, glandular fever or epidemic jaundice.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths
Smallpox .....	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever .....	5	5	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) .....	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever .....	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1	1	0
Pneumonia .....	2	1	0
Erysipelas .....	0	0	0

Disease.	Age Periods.										
	0	1	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65 or over
Scarlet Fever ...			2	3							
Diphtheria ...											
Enteric Fever ...											
Pneumonia ...					1						1
Erysipelas ...											
Puerperal Pyrexia ...					1						
Smallpox ...											

#### PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.						
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.	Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
1	0	1	1	0	0	0

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938:—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 .....	..	...	...	...	...	..	..	...
1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..
10 .....	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
15 .....	...	..	...	..	..	..	...	...
20 .....	...	...	..	..	1	1	...	..
25 .....	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
35 .....	..	...	1	...	..	1	...	...
45 .....	...	..	..	..	...	1	..	..
55 .....	...	1	..	..	...	...	..	..
65 and upwards	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Totals ..	0	1	2	0	1	3	0	0

There were 4 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year, all of these cases having been previously notified to me.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was deemed necessary to be taken under these Regulations.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

No action has been found necessary to be taken under this Section during 1938.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient servant,

**Francis Joseph Dowdall, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

**Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1938**  
Sanitary District.—Hepton Rural.

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.		Cases removed to Hospital.	
—	Smallpox	0	Smallpox
5	Scarlet Fever	5	Scarlet Fever
0	Diphtheria including Mem. Croup	0	Diphtheria
0	Typhoid	0	Enteric Fever
0	Paratyphoid	0	Other Diseases (please specify kind)
2	Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	3	Other Diseases (please specify kind)
1	Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Pneumonia.
0	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	Puerperal Fever.
0	Acute Poliomyelitis	1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
0	Acute Polio-Encephalitis		
0	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica		
0	Typhus Fever		
	Relapsing Fever		
0	Dysentery		
1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum		
0	Erysipelas		
1	Respiratory Tuberculosis (New cases only)		
2	Other Forms of Tuberculosis (New cases only)		
—	Contracted in this Country		
—	Contracted Abroad		
—	Induced in Institutions†		
0	Chickenpox		
0	Measles (excluding German Measles)		
0	Whooping Cough		
0	Other Diseases (please specify kind)		
0	Smallpox		
5	Scarlet Fever		
0	Diphtheria		
0	Enteric Fever		
3	Other Diseases (please specify kind)		
	1 Pneumonia.		
	1 Ophthalmia Neonatorum		

**Respiratory and Other Forms of Tuberculosis.**—Under these headings include only the number of primary cases notifications of institutional admissions and discharges should not be included.

**Chickenpox, Measles, and Whooping Cough.**—Please state if any of these diseases were made compulsorily notifiable in your district during 1938, and if so, during what period. If any of these diseases were not compulsorily notifiable, but were known to be prevalent during 1938, please put a "X" in the appropriate column in above table.

† Notified under the proviso to Article 5 of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927.

(Signed) F. J. DOWDALL, Medical Officer of Health.

**Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for the year  
1938 for the Rural District of Hepton in the  
County of Yorks., on the administration of the Factory  
and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937  
(which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).**

**1.—Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health.  
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector:

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prose- cutions (4)
Factories with mechanical power.....	25	1	0
Factories without mechanical power ...	14	0	0
† Other Premises under the Act (includ- ing works of building and engineer- ing construction but not including outworkers' premises) .....	2	0	0
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Total.....	41	1	0

**2.—Defects Found.**

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.				No of Prosec- utions. (5)
	Found (2)	Reme- died. (3)	Referred to H M Inspector (4)		
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1) .....	1	1	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S. 2) .....	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4) .....	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S. 6) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7):—					
Insufficient .....	1	1	0	0	0
Unsuitable or defective .....	0	0	0	0	0
Not separate for sexes .....	1	1	0	0	0
Other Offences .....	0	0	0	0	0
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).					
Total.....	3	3	0	0	0



OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES.  
SECTION 108.

NATURE OF WORK.	Instances.	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, etc. ....			
Cleaning and Washing .....			
Household linen .....			
Lace, lace curtains and nets .....			
Curtains and furniture hangings ..			
Furniture and upholstery .....			
Electro-plate .....			
File-making .....			
Brass and brass articles .....			
Fur pulling .....			
Cables and chains .....			
Anchors and grapnels .....			
Cart gear .....			
Locks, latches and keys .....			
Umbrellas, etc. ....			
Artificial flowers .....			
Nets, other than wire nets .....			
Tents .....			
Sacks .....			
Racquet and tennis balls .....			
Paper etc. boxes, paper bags .....			
Brush making .....			
Pea picking .....			
Feather sorting .....			
Carding etc. of buttons, etc. ....			
Stuffed toys .....			
Basket making .....			
Chocolates and sweetmeats .....			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ....			
Textile weaving.....			
Lampshades .....			
Total.....	None.	None.	None

**Francis Joseph Dowdall, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year ending December 31st, 1938.

To the Chairman and Member of the Hepton  
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my report as Sanitary Inspector for the year 1938.

The details of my work as Sanitary Inspector are given below.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, and the Medical Officer of Health, for the assistance rendered to me in the discharge of my duties.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

**FRANK DENTITH TAYLOR, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.**

## Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

Total number of Inspections .....	1367
Alterations and repairs to houses and works in progress	119
Scavenging and Tips .....	6
Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts .....	285
Inspections re overcrowding cases .....	7
Infectious disease .....	10
Factory Inspections .....	14
Slaughterhouse Inspections .....	144
Complaints received and inspections for nuisances .....	145
Meat and Food inspections.....	29
Drains inspections .....	171
Bakehouses .....	12
Inspections of water supplies and sample taking .....	169
Cowsheds and Dairies .....	167
Milk samples for sediment test .....	0
Miscellaneous visits .....	76
Legal Notices served under Public Health Acts .....	0
Complied with .....	0
Letters or informal notices .....	130
Complied with .....	89

## Water.

Apart from the Heptonstall and Colden districts and a few groups of houses in the vicinity of Hebden Royd Urban District, the majority of water for domestic purposes is obtained from small springs and wells. The water obtained is wholesome in most cases, except after a period of heavy rain, when polluted surface water has a tendency to gain

access, especially to shallow wells; the multitude of small drains carrying sink waste and slop water, without an effectual outfall, are also a contributory factor to unsatisfactory water supplies. During the year the following samples were taken:—

Nature of Supply.	Number of Samples taken.	Result of Analysis.
Public .....	6	6—Satisfactory.
Private .....	16	9—Satisfactory.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The present sewer at Charlestown was extended some 175 yards to allow for the eventual drainage of property at Underbank.

Arising from the building developments at West Laithe and the periodic flooding at the sewerage works it was decided to test the surface water gullies; out of 56 tested 21 were found to be connected to the Council's sewer. In stormy weather, therefore, the large bulk of water finding its way to the sewerage works was enormous, and rendered efficient treatment almost impossible.

The County Council are responsible for all roads and surface water and they were accordingly notified of this matter.

Some misunderstanding exists with regard to the Council's liability in the event of the conversion of a pail closet to the water carriage system. It may be of interest, therefore, to state Sub-section 4 (Sec. 47) Public Health Act, 1936:—

“ Where the owner of a building proposes to provide it with a water closet in substitution for a closet of any other type, the L.A. may, if they think fit, agree to pay him a part, not exceeding one-half, of the expenses reasonably incurred in effecting the replacement, notwithstanding that a notice has not been served by them under this section.”

I would, however, recommend that the Council enforce the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and thereby take full advantage of the present sewer and water schemes.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

From time to time during the year complaints have been made of householders depositing refuse in nearby rivers and streams; frequent visits have been made and warnings given, and with the provision of dustbins some improvement appears to have been effected.

No complaint has been received from the Rivers Board.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

Several conversions have been carried out and pail closets provided during the year; there is still a general

shortage of closet accommodation, however, and this condition is not likely to improve until the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, are enforced.

### **Public Cleansing.**

No change can be recorded in the method of collection, but the provision of dustbins by owners is proceeding steadily; at the end of the year about 400 such receptacles had been provided, and in only one instance has an owner refused to comply with the Local Authorities' request.

Notices to provide these have been of an informal character; for this reason, then, it may be assumed that should the Council decide to purchase an up-to-date refuse collector, the provision of dustbins will follow automatically.

### **Living Vans.**

There is only one van in the district used for human habitation; inspections under the Public Health Act have been made, but no nuisances have been found.

### **Housing.**

The list of dwelling-houses inspected was very numerous and a certain amount of progress may be recorded; unfortunately, the crisis which occurred in September provided additional work for local authorities and caused a temporary set-back in the housing programme.

A majority of the more exposed houses are affected with dampness in varying degrees; the sanitary accommodation is in a number of cases insufficient, and there is a general lack of proper provision for the storage of food.

In regard to the latter item, these are more or less provided at the discretion of the owner, and although recommended by the Sanitary Authority, no enforcement is applied.

### **Meat and Other Foods.**

There are three slaughterhouses in the district, and these are visited each week; the quality of the meat killed has been highly satisfactory, and in only one instance has it been necessary to condemn an entire carcase. Perhaps this freedom from disease may be attributed to the fact that butchers realising the ever-present danger of Tuberculosis have gone in more for heifers and bullocks than for cows.

One case of emergency slaughter was reported due to an animal having choked itself. Slaughter was resorted to immediately, with the result that the carcase was quite sound and fit for food.



